IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MARSHALL DIVISION

HEADWATER RESEARCH LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD and SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC.,

Case No. 2:23-CV-00103-JRG-RSP

Defendants.

SAMSUNG'S OPPOSITION TO HEADWATER'S MOTION FOR RELIEF (DKT. 332)

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Exhibit	Description	
1	January 22, 2025 Email from Amy Wann	
2	'733 Patent Infringement Chart for Headwater's September 28, 2023	
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3	December 15, 2024 Amended '733 Patent Infringement Chart	
4	Excerpts of Samsung's November 30, 2023 Preliminary Invalidity Contentions	
5	Excerpts of Samsung's December 14, 2023 Objections and Responses to	
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6	Excerpts of Samsung's March 8, 2024 Invalidity Contentions	
7	Excerpts of Transcript of the August 22, 2024 Deposition of Byeongchul Nam	
8	Headwater's August 27, 2024 Notice of Amended Subpoena to Google	
9	February 7, 2025 Email Chain Regarding Election of Claims and Defenses	
10	September 10, 2024 Email from Katie Prescott	
11	Excerpts of September 26, 2024 Invalidity Report of Ian Foster	

^{*} Emphasis added unless otherwise noted.

^{**} Form objections are omitted from deposition transcript quotations unless otherwise noted.

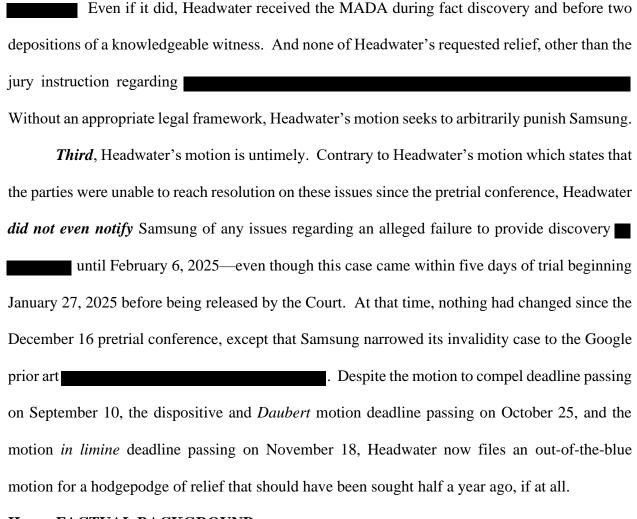
^{***} In this brief, "Headwater" refers to Plaintiff and its purported predecessors.

I. INTRODUCTION

Headwater's motion is baseless, untimely, and a final attempt to unfairly tip the scale in Headwater's favor. Headwater raised these issues for the first time on February 6, one month after the original trial date for this case. But Headwater's last ditch effort fails.

First, Headwater fails to credibly claim any prejudice. Headwater alleges that it learned for the first time from the MADA (which Samsung produced in fact discovery) that and argues that, had it received that information earlier, it would have conducted discovery differently. But not come as a surprise because (1) Headwater accused a Google feature of infringement at the outset of this case, (2) Headwater's infringement allegations implicate Google-controlled servers, (3) Samsung timely identified a Google service as invalidating prior art, and (4) both parties sought discovery from Google. Headwater's claim of prejudice is also belied by the fact that Headwater raised none of these issues leading up to the original trial date for this case on January 6, 2025. In fact, this motion comes more than one month after trial would have already completed. The notion that Headwater will be prejudiced by , also strains credulity.

Second. Headwater misstyles its motion as one for "targeted relief," as it seeks a slew of extremely prejudicial requests barely tied to the alleged harms. Headwater relies, in part, on Rule 37(c)(1), which excludes late-disclosed discovery absent justification. But Rule 37(c)(1) cannot support the drastic remedies Headwater seeks, namely: excluding trial testimony, modifying the jury instructions, and overruling multiple motions. Headwater also relies on Rule 37(b)(2), which provides sanctions against a party that disobeys a court order, claiming Samsung disobeyed the Discovery Order by producing the MADA on September 9 (before the close of fact discovery). But neither the Discovery Order nor Rule 26 require



II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

A. Headwater Raises, For the First Time, A Discovery Issue

On September 9, 2024, Samsung produced the MADA. Mot. at 4; see also Dkt. 242 (regarding background on the MADA). Fact discovery closed on September 20, 2024. Dkt. 131.

On February 6, 2025, Headwater alleged, for the first time, that Samsung failed to provide discovery Dkt. 332-9 at 8-9. This came well after:

- The deadline to file motions to compel discovery on September 10, 2024;
- Headwater deposed on September 10, 2024;
- , Samsung's 30(b)(6) designee on the MADA on September 27, Headwater deposed 2024, and then again on October 17, 2024, but asked no questions in either deposition about

- The close of expert discovery on October 21, 2024;
- The deadline to file dispositive and expert motions on October 25, 2024;
- The parties exchanged witness lists on November 6, 2024,
- The deadline to file motions in limine on November 18, 2024;
- The deadline to file pretrial disclosures on December 4, 2024;
- The pretrial conference held on December 16, 2024;
- The original trial date on January 6, 2025;
- Headwater's election of claims on January 17, 2025;
- Samsung's election of invalidity theories and prior art references on January 21, 2025, wherein Samsung notified Headwater that it would only rely on Google's GTalkService; and
- This case came within five days of trial starting January 27, 2025 before release by the Court.

Dkt. 131; Dkt. 270; Ex. 1.

B. Headwater Has Always Known

On March 10, 2023, Headwater filed the complaint in this case, alleging Samsung infringed two of the three asserted patents by using Google's FCM. *E.g.*, Dkt. 1-4 at 7.¹

On October 19, 2023, Samsung identified Google in its initial disclosures as a relevant entity with knowledge of the design and operation of certain accused features. Dkt. 333-2 at 8.

On September 28, 2023, Headwater served preliminary infringement contentions alleging Samsung infringed its patents by using Google's FCM. *E.g.*, Ex. 2 at 6. On December 15, 2023, Headwater served amended infringement contentions alleging the same. E.g., Ex. 3 at 6.

On November 30, 2023, Samsung identified Google Message Delivery (GTalkService) as prior art to Headwater's asserted patents. Ex. 4 at 23. That same day, Samsung served a subpoena on Google for documents and testimony related to GTalkService. Dkt. 333-4 at 7-8.

On December 14, 2023, Samsung responded to Headwater's interrogatory seeking information about the accused products, noting that "most if not all of the at-issue features/functionalities in this interrogatory relate to or consist of third-party information (e.g.,

¹ Headwater did not articulate an FCM-based infringement theory for the '192 patent. Dkt. 185.

Google's Android operating system)." Ex. 5 at 12.

On March 8, 2024, Samsung served supplemental invalidity contentions also identifying GTalkService. Ex. 6 at 23.

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On June 26, 2024, over a year after Headwater first alleged that Google technology infringes, Headwater served a subpoena on Google for documents and testimony related to FCM.

On August 21, 2024, Samsung served an updated set of initial disclosures, adding that Google was a relevant entity with knowledge regarding prior art.

On August 22, 2024, Samsung engineer testified at deposition that

See Ex. 7 at 28:18-29:1, 30:10-13.

On August 27, 2024, Headwater served an amended subpoena on Google, adding two additional requests, including one specifically directed to the MADA. Ex. 8. On September 6, 2024, third-party Google objected to Headwater's request because, among other things, the request sought information more efficiently obtained from Samsung. Ex. 8 at 11. On September 9, 2024, Samsung produced the MADA to Headwater.

On September 10, 2024, the parties deposed a Google engineer, regarding FCM and GTalkService. a Google engineer, was not designated on a deposition topic directed to the MADA (Topic No. 8), and Headwater's counsel proceeded with the deposition under the same understanding. Dkt. 332-8 at 43:19-25. Headwater did not leave the deposition open or seek any relief regarding Google's timely objections. *Id.* at 218:18-24.

On September 26, 2024, Headwater served its expert report regarding infringement that includes theories for all asserted patents based on Google's FCM push system. The expert report also discusses at length the MADA. Dkt. 185-1, ¶ 1183-1217. That same day, Samsung served

its invalidity expert report that includes theories based on Google's GTalkService. Samsung's expert spoke with Google engineer to confirm his understanding of GTalkService, the conversation of which Headwater had the ability to question Dr. Foster about in deposition.

On November 6, 2024, the parties exchanged witness lists, both listing as may call live or by deposition.

On January 21, 2025, Samsung served its election of invalidity theories and prior art references, relying only on Google's GTalkService for anticipation and obviousness. Ex. 9 at 2.

On February 7, 2025, Headwater notified Samsung that it intended to proceed at trial with allegations against Samsung's products based on Google's FCM push system. *Id.* at 1.

C. Headwater Was Not Diligent In Seeking Discovery

Headwater failed to timely seek discovery from Mr. Kolotouros. Headwater subpoenaed him on August 28, 2024. As early as September 10, 2024 (prior to Mr. Song's deposition), Samsung informed Headwater that a deposition of Mr. Kolotouros would be duplicative of deposition. Ex. 10 at 2. By September 17, 2024, Headwater knew that Mr. Kolotouros

Dkt. 318 at 2.

would not appear for a deposition. *In re Subpoena to Kolotouros*, No. 5:24-mc-80255, Dkt. 9 at 2 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 19, 2024). Headwater moved to compel his deposition a month later, on October 10, 2024. *Id.* By then, opening expert reports had already been served and rebuttal reports were due in just four days. *Id.* at 3. Headwater did not seek an expedited briefing schedule, despite that pretrial disclosures were due before briefing on the motion to compel would complete. *Id.* The Northern District of California found Headwater failed to "address how the sought-after deposition testimony could be used at this late stage in the underlying action." *Id.* After briefing, the court denied Headwater's motion on November 19, 2024. Headwater did not appeal the decision.

D.

On November 6, 2024, Samsung served its trial witness list, listing as "May Call" and noted that "[m]ay' call witnesses may be called *live* or by deposition." Dkt. 280-4. That same day, Headwater served its trial witness list which also identified as "[m]ay call, live or by deposition." Dkt. 280-1.

At the Court's first pretrial conference on December 16, 2024, months before Headwater raised this issue, Samsung informed the Court and Headwater that it

Dkt. 312-1 (12/16/24 Hr'g Tr.) at 87:12-15, 88:19-23.

On February 4, 2025,

III. <u>LEGAL STANDARD</u>

Rule 37 requires that any sanction imposed be just and specifically related to the particular claim that was the subject of the discovery violation. *Hernandez v. Rush Enters., Inc.*, No. 4:19-CV-638, 2020 WL 7041822, at *1 (E.D. Tex. Dec. 1, 2020) (citing *Compaq Comput. Corp. v.*

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Ergonome Inc., 387 F.3d 403, 413 (5th Cir. 2004)). Striking pleadings requires a finding of bad faith or willful misconduct. Pressey v. Patterson, 898 F.2d 1018, 1021 (5th Cir. 1990) (citing Truck Treads, Inc. v. Armstrong Rubber, 818 F.2d 427, 429 (5th Cir. 1987)). Courts should "also consider whether a less drastic remedy would be more tailored to the misconduct and therefore ... better serve the purposes of Rule 37." Id. (citing Batson v. Neal Spelce Assocs., Inc., 765 F.2d 511, 516 (5th Cir. 1985); Jones v. Louisiana State Bar Ass'n, 602 F.2d 94, 97 (5th Cir. 1979)).

The Court "has broad discretion in controlling its own docket." Edwards v. Cass Cnty., Tex., 919 F.2d 273, 275 (5th Cir. 1990) For example, refusing "to allow the filing of a substantive motion on the eve of trial three months after the expiration of a deadline (especially where no extension has been sought) should normally be deemed well within the court's discretion." Id.

No Prejudice From Production of the MADA on September 9, 2024

IV. **ARGUMENT**

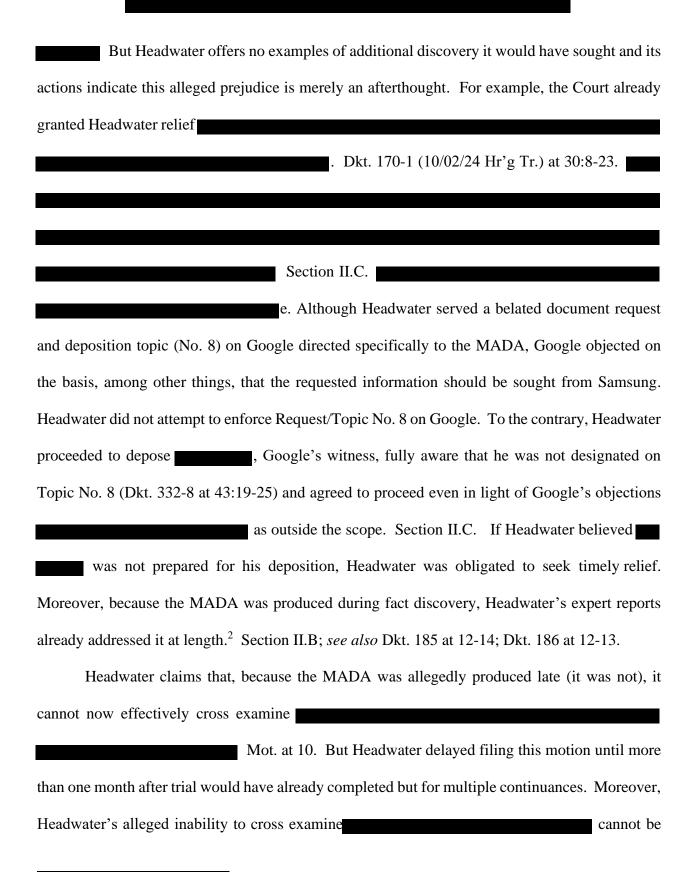
1.

Headwater Suffers No Prejudice A.

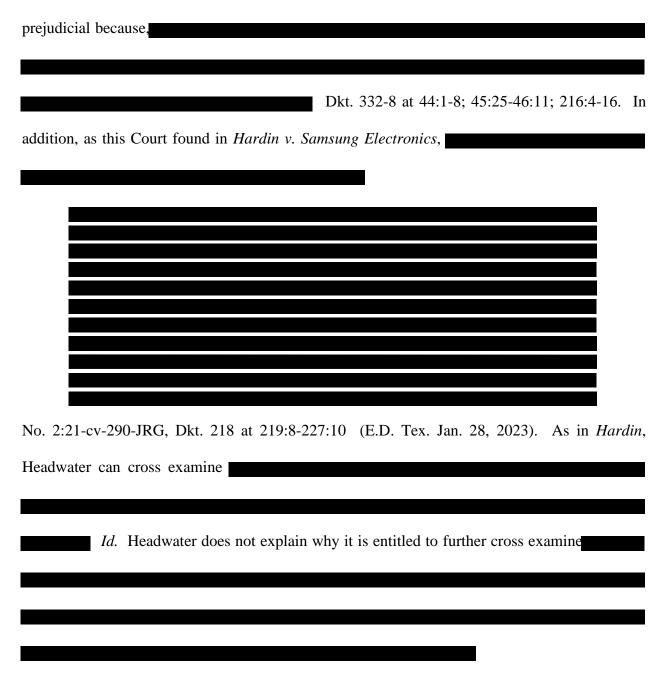
Headwater claims that the "first indication [it] received that was when Samsung produced the MADA on September 9, 2024 (during fact discovery). Mot. at 4. But Headwater cannot credibly assert surprise Mot. at 2, 6-7; Section II.B.1. Section II.B.1. he parties sought discovery from Google as early as November 30, 2023. Section II.B.2.

that it would have changed its discovery strategy if it had known sooner

Headwater has failed to articulate any prejudice for the alleged harms. Headwater claims



² Headwater even had an opportunity to serve supplemental expert reports. Dkt. 245.



Lastly, Headwater alleges that it is prejudiced as a result of its inability to take discovery from third-party Mr. Kolotouros. This, however, has already been adjudicated by the Northern District of California.³ If Headwater had any issues with that ruling, Headwater was obligated to

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³ Headwater initially asked this Court to compel Mr. Kolotouros's deposition. At the October 2 hearing, Headwater admitted it had no legal theory for the Court authority to order that deposition, and that it had not yet initiated an action in the correct forum. 10/02/2024 Hr'g Tr. at 15:23-20:16.

appeal. It chose not to. Headwater instead blames Samsung, claiming Samsung did not disclose Mr. Kolotouros or make him available for deposition. To begin, Samsung explained to Headwater that Mr. Kolotouros's deposition would be duplicative in light of deposition. Ex. 10 at 2. Also, when this case was filed, Mr. Kolotouros was still a VP of partnerships at Google. While Mr. Kolotouros later joined Samsung Research America ("SRA"), SRA is not a party to this case. Dkt. 170-1 (10/02/24 Hr'g Tr.) at 11:19-25, 15:19-16:3. As the Northern District of California court recognized, the delay was an issue of Headwater's own making. Section II.B.3. Regardless, Headwater already had two chances to depose to learn similar information.

2. No Prejudice From

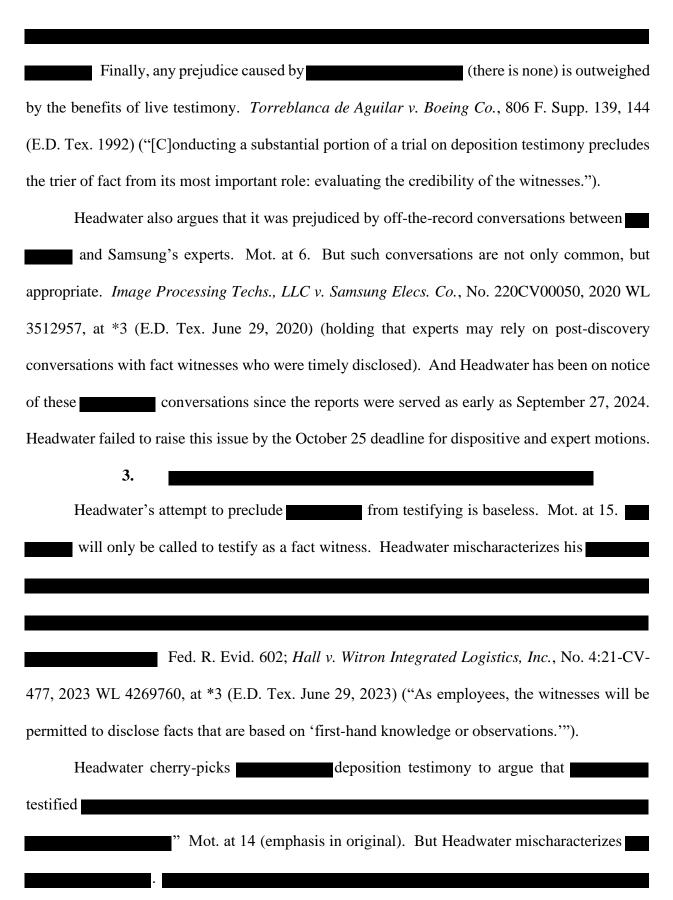
Headwater alleges that it is prejudiced from Samsung

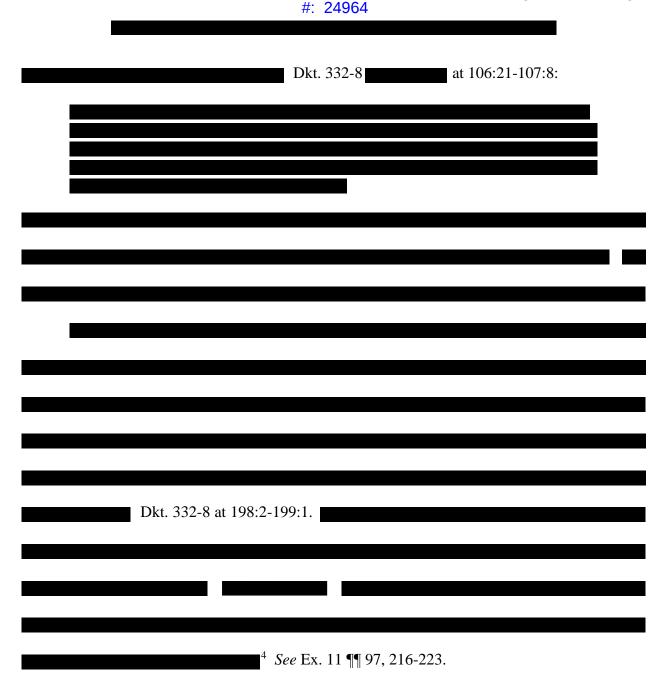
Dkt. 318. Headwater purports that it had to recalibrate its expectations because

Mot. at 1. *This makes no sense*. Samsung's initial trial witness list notified Headwater that may be called live. Section II.D. Samsung expressly reiterated

Dkt. 312-1 (12/16/24 Hr'g Tr.) at 87:12-15, 88:19-20

. And Headwater's own trial witness list listed as "[m]ay call, *live* or by deposition." *Id.* Headwater cannot now pretend it would be harmed by live testimony when both parties reserved the ability to call him live and Samsung verbally told Headwater it intended to call him live months before this baseless motion. Headwater has always been aware that





B. Headwater Fails to Provide Any Framework Justifying Its Requested Relief

Headwater cobbles together a list of alleged harms and asks the Court to punish Samsung with drastic sanctions. At base, Headwater appears to argue that the alleged harms amount to a discovery violation that justifies its requested relief under Rule 37(c)(1) and Rule 37(b)(2). Headwater's reliance on these Rules, however, is misplaced.

⁴ If his testimony borders on opinion testimony, Headwater may object on a case-by-case basis.

Rule 37(c)(1) does not apply to Headwater's issue with providing live, and allegedly opinion, testimony. Rule 37(c)(1) provides that "[i]f a party fails to provide information or identify a witness as required by Rule 26(a) or (e), the party is not allowed to use that information or witness." Headwater's issues concerning testimony—that he was "upgraded" to be a primary witness and that he will allegedly offer opinion testimony—have nothing to do with late-disclosed discovery. Rule 37(c)(1) cannot support striking Samsung's summary judgment motion based on Google prior art or precluding testimony.

Rule 37(c)(1) also does not justify Headwater's request concerning the MADA. Headwater is not entitled to any remedy under Rule 37(c)(1) because the MADA was produced during fact discovery and Headwater had two opportunities to take discovery from Samsung's witness regarding the MADA, so there is no prejudice to Headwater. Further, while Rule 37(c)(1) gives the Court discretion to construct an appropriate remedy, any sanction must still be "just and specifically related to the particular claim." *Hernandez*, 2020 WL 7041822 at *1; *see also Pressy*, 898 F.2d at 1021. The remedies Headwater seeks are (1) not "just" because

is not relevant to the issues to be decided by the jury, and (2) not "specifically related" to the claim because some of the objections Headwater wants to overrule have nothing to do with the MADA. *E.g.*, Dkt. 185 (Parts A, B, and F seeks striking Headwater's late-disclosed, conclusory, and unreliable infringement theories).

Headwater's request to overrule Samsung's objections to Headwater's use of Google-related evidence, including striking Samsung's motion *in limine* and parts of Samsung's *Daubert* motions, is similarly baseless. Striking a pleading under Rule 37 requires a finding of bad faith or willful misconduct. *Pressey*, 898 F.2d at 1021. Headwater does not even allege such misconduct. If Headwater believed that Samsung's motions were improper in light of the issues it raises in this

motion, Headwater could have included these arguments in its oppositions. It did not.

Headwater's reliance on Rule 37(b)(2) is also unavailing. Rule 37(b)(2) provides "[i]f a party . . . fails to obey an order to provide or permit discovery . . . , the court where the action is pending may issue further just orders." Headwater asserts that Samsung disobeyed the Discovery Order (Dkt. 64)⁵ by producing the MADA on September 9 (before the close of fact discovery). Mot. at 2. Headwater cites 1(e) of the Discovery Order—which largely tracks Rule 26(a)(1)(iv)—to argue Samsung should have produced

; see In re Zicam Cold Remedy Mktg., Sales Pracs., & Prods. Liab. Litig., No. 09-MD-2096, 2010 WL 4715951, at *1 (D. Ariz. Nov. 15, 2010) ("[Rule 26] explicitly applies only to agreements covering the potential liability of insurance businesses."); Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 Advisory Comm. Notes (1970) ("The provision applies only to persons 'carrying on an insurance business' and thus covers insurance companies."); see also BPP Retail Props., LLC v. N. Am. Roofing Servs., Inc., 300 F.R.D. 59, 62–63 (D.P.R. 2014). Thus, Samsung did not violate the Discovery Order. And Headwater's issues regarding testimony do not fall into this framework because Headwater has not alleged the violation of any court order for this issue.

C. <u>Headwater's Requested Relief Is Unjustly Prejudicial to Samsung</u>

Each of Headwater's requests for relief will disproportionately and unjustly prejudice Samsung. Headwater waited until after Samsung elected only GTalkService in its final election of prior art to bring this motion, which seeks to preclude testimony from

⁵ Headwater does not accuse Samsung of violating any of the Court's orders regarding Headwater's motions to compel issued at the October 2, 2024 hearing.

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Thus, Headwater is effectively attempting to cripple Samsung's prior art and non-infringement defenses on the eve of trial.

Headwater's other requests to establish by jury instruction and unobjected evidence are highly prejudicial to Samsung. For example, they may lead the jury to decide

Such an instruction and unobjected evidence contravenes the Court's standing motion in limine 12 that

"[t]he parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument regarding

funding of the litigation" and may cause confusion over who is the defendant in this case. See

Marlow LLC v. BellSouth Telecomm., Inc., 2013 WL 1752384, at *1 (S.D. Miss. Apr. 23, 2013).

D. <u>Headwater's Motion is Not Timely</u>

Headwater's motion is not timely. Headwater did not notify Samsung of any issues regarding a failure to provide discovery until February 6, 2025—five months after learning about and weeks after this case was originally scheduled for trial. At that time, nothing had changed in this case, which had been stalled since the December 16, 2024 pretrial conference. The Court does not need to entertain Headwater's current motion that effectively amounts to a series of out-of-time *Daubert*, *in limine*, and summary judgment motions and sur-replies. *Edwards*, 919 F.2d at 275 (A court may refuse to allow the filing of a substantive motion after the expiration of a deadline, especially where no extension has been sought). Headwater chose, at its peril, not to file this motion by those deadlines.

V. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, the Court should deny Headwater's motion in its entirety.

Dated: March 6, 2025 Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Lance Yang

Ruffin B. Cordell TX Bar No. 04820550 Michael J. McKeon DC Bar No. 459780 mckeon@fr.com Jared Hartzman DC Bar No. 1034255 hartzman@fr.com

FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.

1000 Maine Avenue, SW, Ste 1000

Washington, D.C. 20024 Telephone: (202) 783-5070 Facsimile: (202) 783-2331

Thad C. Kodish GA Bar No. 427603 tkodish@fr.com Benjamin K. Thompson GA Bar No. 633211 bthompson@fr.com Jonathan B. Bright GA Bar No. 256953 ibright@fr.com Christopher O. Green GA Bar No. 037617 cgreen@fr.com Noah C. Graubart GA Bar No. 141862 graubart@fr.com Sara C. Fish GA Bar No. 873853 sfish@fr.com Katherine H. Reardon NY Bar No. 5196910 reardon@fr.com Steffen C. Lake GA Bar No. 512272 lake@fr.com

> Nicholas A. Gallo GA Bar No. 546590 gallo@fr.com Vivian C. Keller (*pro hac vice*) GA Bar No. 651500 keller@fr.com

FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.

1180 Peachtree St. NE, Fl. 21

Atlanta, GA 30309

Telephone: (404) 892-5005 Facsimile: (404) 892-5002

Leonard E. Davis
TX Bar No. 05521600
ldavis@fr.com
Andria Rae Crisler
TX Bar No. 24093792
crisler@fr.com
Thomas H. Reger II
Texas Bar No. 24032992
reger@fr.com

FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. 1717 Main Street, Suite 5000

Dallas, TX 75201

Telephone: (214)747-5070 Facsimile: (214) 747-2091

John-Paul R. Fryckman (*pro hac vice*) CA Bar No. 317591

John W. Thornburgh

CA Bar No. 154627

thornburgh@fr.com

FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.

12860 El Camino Real, Ste. 400

San Diego, CA 92130

Telephone: (858) 678-5070 Facsimile: (858) 678-5099

Katherine D. Prescott (pro hac vice)

CA Bar No. 215496

prescott@fr.com

FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.

500 Arguello Street

Suite 400

Redwood City, CA 94063 Telephone: (650) 839-5180 Facsimile: (650) 839-5071

> Kyle J. Fleming (pro hac vice) NY Bar No. 5855499 kfleming@fr.com

FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.

7 Times Square, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10036 Telephone: (212) 765-5070

Facsimile: (212) 258-2291

Melissa R. Smith State Bar No. 24001351

Melissa@gillamsmithlaw.com

GILLAM & SMITH, LLP 303 South Washington Avenue

Marshall, Texas 75670 Telephone: (903) 934-8450

Facsimile: (903) 934-9257

Andrew Thompson ("Tom") Gorham State Bar No. 24012715 tom@gillamsmithlaw.com James Travis Underwood Texas Bar No. 24102587 travis@gillamsmithlaw.com

GILLAM & SMITH, LLP

102 N. College, Suite 800

Tyler, Texas 75702

Telephone: (903) 934-8450 Facsimile: (903) 934-9257

Michael E. Jones

State Bar No. 10929400

mikejones@potterminton.com

Shaun W. Hassett

State Bar No. 24074372

shaunhassett@potterminton.com

POTTER MINTON, P.C.

102 N. College Ave., Suite 900

Tyler, Texas 75702

Telephone: (903) 597-8311 Facsimile: (903) 593-0846

Lance Lin Yang CA. Bar No. 260705

Lanceyang@quinnemanuel.com

Kevin (Gyushik) Jang
CA Bar No. 337747
kevinjang@quinnemanuel.com
Sean S. Pak
CA Bar No. 219032
seanpak@quinnemanuel.com
QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART &
SULLIVAN, LLP
50 California Street, 22nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: (415) 875-6600

Brady Huynh (admitted *pro hac vice*) CA Bar No. 339441 bradyhuynh@quinnemanuel.com **QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART & SULLIVAN, LLP** 555 Twin Dolphin Drive, 5th Floor Redwood Shores, CA 94065 Telephone: (650) 801-5000 Facsimile: (650) 801-5100

Jon Bentley Hyland
Texas Bar No. 24046131
jhyland@hilgersgraben.com
Grant K. Schmidt
Texas Bar No. 24084579
gschmidt@hilgersgraben.com
HILGERS GRABEN PLLC
7859 Walnut Hill Lane, Suite 335
Dallas, Texas 75230
Telephone: (972) 645-3097

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD. AND SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was filed electronically in compliance with Local Rule CV-5 on March 6, 2025. As of this date, all counsel of record had consented to electronic service and are being served with a copy of this document through the Court's CM/ECF system under Local Rule CV-5(a)(3)(A).

/s/ Lance Yang Lance Yang	